1958 Reservation Chronology

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JANUARY

Early in the year a division of all risidual lands was made. This included agricultural and grazing lands not previously divided, as well as city lots in Duchesne, Myton and Randlett.

A number of meetings were held during the month of January, and committees were appointed to work with Uintah Basin committees, Roosevelt Chamber of Commerce, Vernal Chamber of Commerce and others in an effort to further Industrial Development in the Basin. Representatives of the Affiliated Ute Citizens, the Ute Tribe and the Uintah and Ouray Agency participated in these meetings.

In the latter part of January an Area-wide Resources Conference of one week was held in Phoenix, Arizona. Superintendent Fleming, Realty officers and Assistant Realty officers, all Land Operations Technicians, as well as the Executive Secretaries for the Ute Tribe and Affiliated Ute Citizens attended this conference.

The Rrecreation Department sponsored an All-Indian Basketball Tournament which included teams from California, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming Colorado and Utah. In the final game of this annual basketball tournament the Fort Washakie Indians defeated the Fort Duchesne Huskies. Charles Denver of the Fort Duchesne team won a trophy for most valuable player in the tournament.

The Girls' basketball team participated in the Uintah Basin Tournament and won first place.

Boxing was also featured early in the year. Darrell Shavanaux won the Regional Golden Glove Tournament in Denver and was voted the outstanding boxer in the 112-pound class. Johnny Cesspooch won the runnerup trophy in the 118-pound class.

FEBRUARY

Bids were opened on Invitation, covering the sale of 26,435 acres of tribal land as authorized by Public Law 671. Bids were received on 71 out of 92 tracts advertised, covering 22,283.89 acres and offering a total of $47,898.96.

Aften Richens, Irrigation Operator (ditchrider) was honored in Washington, D. C. on Feb. 5, 1958. He was awarded the Valor Award of the Department of the Interior by an Assistant Secretary of the Interior. This award was given Mr. Richens in recognition of his quick thinking and action relative to the saving of a tractor's operator when both were involoved in an electrical accident. Mr. and Mrs. Richens reported an interesting and educational trip and appreciation for the many courtesies extended them while in Washington, D. C.

Floyd S. Wheeler, Watermaster, who retired, was awarded the Commendable Service Award in recognition of his over thirty years of service with the Department.

Area and Agency personnel installed and effected the Uintah and Ouray Station ISSDA accounting procedure, whereby disbursements from and deposits to the local bank and the United States Treasury will increase the Agency's ability to serve the Indian people and at the same time permit idle Individual Indian money to earn interest.

Progress was made at a joint meeting of the Tribal groups and Area and Agency officials on the adoption of a law and order code, guardianship and a fish and game code.

The Ute Tribe passed a resolution authorizing the construction of a heated swimming pool and bath houses.

At the Intermountain A.A.U. Boxing Tournament, Darrell Shavanaux won the Junior 112-pound class championship, and Johnny Cesspooch won the 118-pound Senior championship. Leonard Lopez won the runnerup title in the 112-pound Novice Division and Chuck Queacut won runner-up title in the Senior Division for the 160-pound class.

The Recreation Department extended its Human Relationship Workshop to include Junior High School students on an experimental basis. Three workshops were held on the Reservation with the staff from the University of Utah partcipating. Three workshops were also held on the University of Utah campus in January, February and March.

MARCH

After many discussions and meetings, grazing permits and fees were set up for the Ute Tribe.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs approved the division of the Tribe's Realty Assets between the Mixed-bloods and the full-bloods.

Representatives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs from the central, area and agency offices met with the State Director of Extension Service and staff at Logan to discuss Extension work among the Indians.

APRIL

The Ute Tribe passed a resolution authorizing the construction of a new community building at Ouray, a rodeo grounds at Whiterocks, and completion of the new warehouse at Fort Duchesne. They also sponsored a Livestock Show at Fort Duchesne.

A $500 per capita payment was distributed to members of the Ute Tribe.

A mobile X-ray Unit visited the Fort Duchesne Agency, and every effort was made by the Public Health Service and Dr. Edward Maglietta to get as many people as possible from the Reservation to participate and have X-rays taken.

MAY

A group of officials from the Bureau and tribal groups spent several days in the Phoenix Area Office discussing matters pertaining to the work to be done in connection with the division of assets among members of the Affiliated Ute Citizens. Partcipiting in the business excursion were Supt. Darrell Fleming, O. K. Weaver, Raymond Carufel, Ed Davis, Adelyn Logan, Rex Curry, A. H. Harris and Attorney John S. Boyden of Salt Lake City. In connection with the same problem, Supt. Fleming accompanied by Attorney Boyden spent a week in the nations 'Capitol conferring with Indian Service officials about the legal end of policy matters.

Mrs. Lon A. Logan, a member of the Fort Duchesne Women' Club and full-time employee of the Bureau at Fort Duchesne as Assistant Realty Officer, was elected at the state convention of Utah Federated Women's Clubs as president. Mrs. Logan had previously served a two-year term as first vice-president and prior to that a term as director of Junior Clubs. She has also been active on the state board for several years. The Fort Duchesne Women's Club honored Mrs. Logan with an Open House tea to which members of all Women's clubs in the Basin were invited.

The Uintah and Ouray American Legion Auxiliary, assisted by the Ute Tribe and the Fort Duchesne Women's Club, sponsored four girls to Girls' State. Joining seven other girls from Union High were Geri Denver, Darlene Fleming, Alice Cuch and Betty LaRena Oberhansly.

Members of the Ute Tribe, employees of the Agency, and others, making a total of 17 in the party made a trip by boat down the Green River with a stopover and horseback trip at Wilcox Ranch. Among the purposes of the trip were those of ascertaining the feasibility of building access roads to the tribal lands and possibilities for recreational development.

Also during the month of May, the Uintah and Ouray Agency and the Ute Tribe acted as hosts to the Utah Cooperative Fire Organization. Participating in the meeting were officials of the Ute Tribe, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service, State Forestry Board, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State and local road officials as well as Law enforcement officials. Approximately 70 men attended the meetings. Lunch was furnished by the Fort Duchesne Women's Club.

JUNE

After considerable work by the Central, Area and Agency staff of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, an agreement was reached on the manner in which the water and re-designation problems of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation should be attacked. A memorandum was prepared wherein the problem was defined and action was indicated by priority.

Negotiations were entered into with the University of Utah looking toward the securing of the services of a financial consultant to the mixed-blood people. When this service is available to the Affiliated Ute Citizens, loans can be refinanced, assignments purchased and range rights secured.

The Ute Tribal Business Committee and Fish and Game Board spent the week of June 23 to June 28 visiting the Apache Reservation at Whiteriver, Arizona to gain information to be used in setting up recreational and fishing and hunting enterprises for the Ute Tribe.

Francis McKinley, Director of Community Services for the Ute Tribe, attended the conference of National Fellowship of Indian Workers held at Estes Park, Colorado from June 30 to July 5.

The Recreation Department sponsored a six-week training course for high school students in On-The-Job training and in office work and recreation.

JULY

In July a cash distribution of $100 per person was made to members of the Affiliated Ute Citizens.

Detailed schedules of water data, by 40-acre subdivisions including ownerships, Utah State filings, soil classification and present O. & M. repayment status were completed for all irrigable tracts controlled by the Mixed-blood group, consisting of those purchased by assignees, unpurchased assignments and agricultural lands.

A maintenance Inventory needs of the Irrigation Project was begun by the Bureau in July. Five representatives of the Uintah Basin Water Users Association were invited to take an active part in the survey.

The division of assets on the Uncompahgre timber and inaccessible lands was completed during the month of July. A legal boundary line on the Pidgeon Water Area was completed as a part of the division of the mixed-blood and full-blood range land.

After thirteen years of negotiations with the State of Utah, the Federal Government and private individuals, the Ute Tribe purchased 32,726 acres of land lying within the southern extension of the Reservation which is known locally as the Uncompaghre Reserve. Gov. George D. Clyde delivered the patent to the Ute Tribe inconsideration of a check for $81,817.25 or $2.50 per acre. The transaction involves only the surface rights and reserves the mineral rights and the right to mine and prospect for the minerals to the State of Utah. The lands purchased are various tracts of land known as school sections which were checkerboarded throughout the Uncompaghre Reserve.

The Recreation Department sponsored a 3-day Youth Encampment in July to the Big Springs Area in Uintah Canyon. Approximately 125 boys and girls participated. Parents and friends were invited to attend the second evening of the encampment when a very fine program was presented by the boys and girls. After the program, everyone participated in a giant weiner roast.

AUGUST

Led by Mr. Tommy Appah, dressed as a warbonneted Indian Chief riding a horse, the colorful Ute tribal float captured first place in both the UBIC parade held at Roosevelt and the parade held at the Duchesne County Fair. The float was escorted by Junior Cuch, Roland McCook and Lacee Harris, dressed as Indian warriors. A committee composed of Mrs. Diane Clausen, Mrs. Violet Parriette and Harvey Natchez, designed and supervised the work on the float.

The Affiliated Ute Citizens had a general membership meeting on August 2, at which time they passed a resolution to have only one state incorporated corporation which would include the range lands, residue of farm lands, undistributed assets, present and future, and fish and game management. In this corporation all members would hold ownership in equal shares without regard to carrying capacity of the range land.

A resolution was passed by the Ute Tribal Business Committee approving the retention to all inaccessible lands on the Uncompaghre Addition, and they agreed to pay to the Mixed-blood group a total of $22,987.90 for their proportionate share of these inaccessible lands. Previous to the resolution, members of the Ute Tribal Business Committtee, members of the Board of Directors of the Affiliated Ute Citizens and Agency personnel made a survey of the timbered lands on the Uncompaghre Extension and agreed on the value of such.

The Recreation Department sponsored a Little League Boys team in the Uintah Basin Little League Baseball. Junior Sixkiller, Kent Denver and Donald Reed won individual trophies as outstanding players.

The Ute Tribe began a 30-minute radio program called the Ute Indian News which is being produced by the Community Services Division of the Tribe over local Radio Station KVEL of Vernal each Tuesday morning.

The recent Uintah Basin Industrial Convention at Roosevelt saw the revival of the spectacular Indian pageant, "Hiawatha," which was first performed 25 years ago at Ft. Duchesne. The pageant won wide acclaim from residents of Uintah Basin and visitors. Some 60 members of the Ute Tribe and the Affiliated Ute Citizens performed in the show.

The production was supervised by Mrs. Norma Denver. Leading roles in the cast were Charles Shavanaux as Hiawatha, and Janice Nielson Bailey as Minie-ha-ha. Mrs. Irma Sutteer gave a superb reading rendition of the pageant. Vocal solos were contributed by LeRoy Anderson and the Rev. James Minnis. Music for the production was provided by Mrs. Ray Summers & Mrs. Jay Fitzgerald who played the violin and organ, respectively. Miss Gerri Denver accompanied the soloists. Supporting cast included Larry Cesspooch, Mrs. Harriett Johnson, Robert Chapoose, Harvey Natchez, Stella LaRose, Margaret Rose Jenks and Rueben Cesspooch, Jr.

SEPTEMBER

The Affiliated Ute contract appraiser completed the appraisal of the Affiliated Ute grazing lands during the month of September, and it was examined and approved by the Area and Central Office officials.

In addition to the work shop conducted by Area officials with Public School officials in Uintah and Duchesne Counties, two meetings were held by the Agency officials with the the Uintah School principals. These meetings were held to discuss the payment of Indian children's fees, hot lunch costs, etc.

Francis McKinley, Director of Community Services for the Tribe, accepted appointment by Governor Clyde as one of his representatives to the Governors' Interstate Indian Council. Mr. McKinley has been active in the Governor's Interstate Indian Council for the past 8 years. He attended the conference in Minnesota this month. On the same trip Mr. McKinley contracted the Credit Union in Madison, Wisconsin.

The heavy fire season in the Uintah Basin generally is in the early spring, but such was not the case this year. More than 14 forest and brush fires occured during the months of August and September. The 2 major fires were the ones in the Whiterocks River area just above Red Bridge and the one in Hill Creek immediately east of the Hill Creek Ranger Station. The 800 acre fire at Hill Creek was controlled, but considerable damage resulted, making it necessary to hand re-seed both areas.

An ordinance was passed by the Uintah and Ouray Tribal Business Committee which will restrict future enrollment as members in the Ute Indian Tribe to persons possessing not less than 5/8 degree of Ute Indian blood of the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Utah. Present enrollment requirements have been that the child would be enrolled if he had at least ½ degree Ute Indian blood. This ordinance will affect future enrollment of children of those parents married outside the Tribe.

For the first time the Ute Indians were given the right to vote in a county and state election. The vote was granted under a law enacted by the states in the Union had previously allowed Indians to vote.

OCTOBER

In October, Mr. Darrell Fleming, Superintendent of the Uintah and Ouray Agency, received from the Department of the Interior a citation and $500 cash award for the outstanding job he had done in the implementation of the division of assets under Public Laws 671 and 672.

The Uintah and Ouray Tribal Business Committee entered into a contract with University of Utah for a period of one year wherein the University personnel will make a study and evaluation of the general educational system existing on the Reservation and a study of the educational needs of the adult members of the Ute Tribe. They will also recommend programs to be followed in stimulating interest and will continue human relationship seminars and work shops to provide counseling services for the tribe.

At a general membership meeting of the Affiliated Ute Citizens on Oct. 4, they accepted the Articles of Incorporation for a cattle corporation as provided for in Public Law 671. A plan was devised for the division of assets to the mixed-blood members. The Articles were filed with the Secretary of State and the Board of Directors of each will manage the area covered by the corporations. Certificates of stock will be issued to each member on the final roll.

A committee was appointed by the Secretary of Interior composed of one member each from the Affiliated Ute Citizens, the White Water Users, and the Bureau to designate the access lands of the Uintah Irrigation Project. Each land owner, as nearly as possible, will be contacted during the designation. A member of the Ute Tribe will be appointed to replace the Affiliated Ute member when tribal lands are designated. The designation will be in 2 parts: (1) Lands belonging to the Ute Tribe and to Whites who have purchased Indian allotments. (2) Lands belonging to the Affiliated Ute Citizens. This designation will cover approximately 140,000 acres and water rights in excess of 77,000 acres.

Also during October, 17 miles of access roads were completed in the Dark Conyon Area, opening a great deal of country for fire fighters, hunters, and it will initiate timber sales.

NOVEMBER

In November, 12 miles of access roads were completed on Mormon Ridge in the Ute Extension. Also, access roads, construction of Spring Development and stock water ponds lined with Bentonite were started in Sams and Dry Canyon areas.

Minerals bids on tribal lands were awarded to three major oil and gas companies for a total of $303,913.00 These monies will be added to the funds belonging to the Ute Indian Tribe and Affiliated Ute Citizens, each in their proportionate share.

The Affiliated Ute Citizens at their meeting of November 1 passed a resolution to accept the Articles of Incorporation for a Distributive Corporation. This corporation will handle all income for the group. Wherever possible, management affairs will be turned over to the First Security Bank of Roosevelt, and it shall act as receiving agent.

The Evaluation Team from the Washington Office consisting of Clyde Pensoneau, Martin Mangan, Lucille Hastings and Everett Woods completed the survey of the Ten-Year Ute Program. The report should be of great value to the Tribal Officials as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs in determining the course of action to be taken in the future.

A meeting was held in November with three District Court Judges covering the two counties in which the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation is located. This meeting was for the purpose of formulating general policies and practices relative to district court appointed guardians over the estates of mixed-blood minor children.

The Recreation Department sponsored an excursion to the Timpanogas Cave for all boys and girls in the clubs from the three communities.

A Junior League Football Tournament was also initiated by the Recreation Department in October as well as on Archery Hunt. Halloween parties were held at all three communities.

DECEMBER

The Junior League Football Tournament culminated with a final game played at Fort Duchesne on Thanksgiving Day. Randlett won the trophy.

The Coordinating Council composed of representatives from the Ute Tribe, the Uintah and Duchesne School Districts, the University of Utah, Utah State University and the Bureau met on Nov. 17. This committee has as its aim to coordinate the efforts of all concerned to aid and assist the Ute Indian Tribe in prosecuting the Ten-Year Ute Program. The committee, in recognizing the existing problems, recommended another meeting which was held Dec. 8, wherein representatives of Juvenile Court, State Welfare Department, County Law Enforcement Officers and School Board members met with those listed above to discuss and find ways to combat the delinquency and juvenile problems among the Ute Indian people.

(Insert from Weekly News)

As the year, 1958, draws to a close, it is apparent that a great deal has been accomplished during the year, and it is also apparent that a great deal more needs to be done, but now the Reservation people are celebrating the Yuletide season. Religious services, dinners and parties were held and will be held this week. At the request of the Uintah and Ouray Tribal Business Committee, a per capita payment of $450 will be made to members of the Ute Tribe, with $150 constituting the initial payment given on Dec. 23, and $100 payments to be made in each of the succeeding three months.

Among other items of business, the Committee also passed a resolution authorizing the taking of Christmas trees by each tribal family, schools, and other community organizations on the Reservation at no charge.

The people of the Basin still may drive out to Fort Duchesne and view the Christmas decorations, and your reporter is sure that you will be able to feel that all of the people on the Reservation and at this Agency hope you had a joyful Christmas and that the New Year brings you success and happiness.